CITY OF VANCOUVER ARCHIVES

City of Vancouver Archives Newsletter Number 1: September 2005

City of Vancouver Archives News

Welcome!! The City of Vancouver Archives launches the first issue of its newsletter - a joint effort of the City of Vancouver Archives and the Friends of the City Archives. Our purpose is to highlight our achievements and activities with a regular section on the Friends, reports on events, and profiles of members, researchers, and donors. We will also have feature articles on Archives programs and notes about recent acquisitions. There will be two issues per year, one in late winter and the second in the fall. Our intention is to keep you informed about the Archives and the Friends and to encourage your support and participation. We hope you will read and enjoy the newsletter, come to the Archives to use our resources on the City's history, and get involved with the Friends.

I would also like to hear from you and welcome suggestions about the newsletter and ideas about stories or features. I also welcome questions, comments and suggestions about the City of Vancouver Archives website or any other feature of our program. You may contact me at 604-736-8561 or reuben.ware@vancouver.ca

Reuben Ware, City Archivist

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Friends of the Vancouver City Archives

Join the Friends and get involved in helping the City of Vancouver Archives preserve Vancouver's documentary heritage. For information about the Friends, see back cover.

Featured Fonds

Fonds is an archives word that means the whole of the documents and data, regardless of form or medium, created and accumulated by a person, family, organization, or other corporate body in the course of that creator's activities or functions. Archives work by acquiring fonds, preserving them, and organizing them for use and access. Each issue of the newsletter will have an article on a recent acquisition or fonds. The first issue's feature is the Townley, Matheson and Partners fonds.

Townley, Matheson and Partners Fonds

In February 2002, the City of Vancouver Archives received a significant donation consisting of approximately 5,000 architectural drawings, 653 photographs, and textual records produced by a major architectural firm: Townley, Matheson and Partners. The records, dating from 1911 to 1974, were donated by Morna Horner, the daughter of Allen C. Kelly (1908-2001). Mr. Allen Kelly was the last partner of the firm. This donation represents the largest set of original architectural records which the Archives holds.

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Townley, Matheson and Partners Fonds, contd.

Townley, Matheson and Partners was founded in 1919 by Fred L. Townley (1887-1966) and Robert T. Matheson (1887-1935) and was one of the three most active and outstanding architectural firms in Vancouver from the 1920s to the 1960s. The majority of the work the partnership did in its initial years was private residences and small-scale commercial projects. The partnership achieved prominence in 1935 after it was awarded the contract to design Vancouver's new City Hall.

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s the partnership designed fewer residences and increasing numbers of commercial buildings, including numerous grocery stores and movie theatres. From the 1950s onward, hospital design formed the most sizeable component of the partnership's business.

Although Townley, Matheson and Partners was dissolved in 1974, their records left a rich legacy of sophisticated works including the Vancouver Stock Exchange, Tudor Manor Apartments, Point Grey Secondary School, Vancouver General Hospital Centennial Pavilion, the Columbia Theatre in New Westminster, and of course the landmark Vancouver City Hall.

Since the Townley, Matheson and Partners fonds is one of the most important sets of records documenting the property history, neighbourhood history, and buildings of Vancouver, the Archives assigned high priority to these records. The records processing project began in June 2003 with a grant from the Canadian Council of Archives. The project involved background research, physical processing, description and arrangement, and conservation. Including staff time and the purchase of flat-storage cabinets and other archival supplies, the costs associated with the project exceeded $25,000.

The records of Townley, Matheson and Partners are available at the Archives and searchable through the Archives' website. Please be aware that some of the architectural drawings are access-restricted according to the BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act. Please consult the archivist for access procedures.

Kitsilano 100 Years: People and their Places

The City of Vancouver Archives is pleased to host this exhibit which features over 40 historical photographs depicting Kitsilano from 1905 to the 1970s. The theme of the exhibit is the remarkable people, individuals and groups who have contributed to the Kitsilano neighbourhood we know today. You will see what Kitsilano was like for people prominent in the community such as August Jack Khahtsahlano, Major J.S. Matthews, Bert Emery and James L. Quiney.

The exhibit will be on display in the City of Vancouver Archives display gallery from October 3rd to the end of December 2005. At the Archives on Sunday, November 6th at 2:00 p.m. Jan Pierce, the curator for the exhibit, will be giving a free talk to the Friends of the Vancouver City Archives about the history of Kitsilano and her research connected with photographs in the exhibit.

View of the 2100 block of Cornwall at Yew Street, April 7, 1934, City of Vancouver Archives, Stuart Thompson photo, CVA 99-4611

Vancouver's Trees: A Short History

By Clive Justice

In 1923 Harland Bartholomew appeared before the Point Grey Town Planning Commission - chaired by Frank Ebenezer Buck, Professor of Horticulture at UBC and newly appointed campus Landscape Architect - and members of the Point Grey Municipal Council. He spoke of the city's need for passive recreation in the form of "...grass, trees, flowers and water (where possible) forming a restful background." When he prepared the Town Plan for amalgamation of the municipalities of "staid" Point Grey and "unruly" South Vancouver with the City of Vancouver, Bartholomew proposed two additional passive recreational features for the amalgamated Vancouver. These were street and boulevard trees and a system of dual carriageway, wide treed medians, with tree-lined sidewalks on each side as recreational drives for the city's residents.

This grid of passive recreational drives is a signal urban landscape element of Vancouver, unique in its scope, and remains largely intact 75 years after these "street parks" were proposed. These landscapes present a great diversity of tree species, particularly flowering trees that make for visitor and resident attraction and beauty found in no other temperate world city. All these treed streetscapes have become part of our urban heritage and should be preserved. Only one, Cambie Street, has heritage status due to the efforts of the Cambie Boulevard Heritage Society, but this too is at risk and under threat of destruction. King Edward Avenue (25th), Dunbar to Main would also qualify, but so far Vancouver's heritage community has focused mainly on heritage buildings.

Post World War II development in Vancouver resulted in tree planting of the smaller and fast-growing flowering trees along residential streets, and the oriental cherry varieties Akebono, Shirotae, Ranchero, Accolade and Ukon were among the 26 varieties that were favoured. This planting diversity has always been a key feature of Vancouver's street planting approach, partly due to the strong gardener heritage of English and Scottish settlers. Diversity helped protect the city's trees from the devastating Dutch Elm Disease that ran rampant, destroying the avenues of majestic American Elms on streets in Eastern Canadian and Midwestern U.S. cities and towns.

In 1967 the newly registered B.C. Society of Landscape Architects proposed an inventory of Vancouver's heritage trees in honour of Canada's Centennial of Confederation. It was a particular passion of the BCSLA's first and long-serving Secretary and Registrar, Einar Broderson, but it took a decade and a half before the BCSLA secured funding. Through funding from the BC Heritage Trust, BCSLA was able to employ two students, Clarence Sihoe and Elisabeth Whitelaw from the UBC Landscape Architectural program during the summers of 1982 and 1983 to measure, photograph and identify 150 plus heritage trees found in the 22 Vancouver residential districts, Stanley Park, and on the UBC campus. This inventory is only a representative sample of Vancouver's heritage trees and does not include trees on streets or boulevards. Trees in the path of development or upgrades of traffic infrastructure can be at risk, and protection is most effective in parks and on public grounds.

In 1988 the city employed the arboriculture consulting firm ACRT to inventory and assess Vancouver's street and boulevard trees and prepare a comprehensive Management Plan for care, maintenance renewal and replacement of the over 600 species and varieties of planted trees in parks and on the streets and boulevards in the city. This plan was adopted in 1990 by the Board of Parks and Recreation and states: "The goal of Vancouver's street tree program is to proactively manage the municipal forest in a proper arboriculture and cost effective manner by providing the taxpayers innovative leadership and services designed to preserve and improve the natural beauty of the urban forest."

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Tree pruning on a Vancouver street, ca. 1925. Gowen-Sutton Co. photograph, CVA 392-867

It continues: "The goal will be accomplished through the design, communication, and implementation of tree planning and maintenance policies and programs outlined in the Street Tree Management Plan which are consistent with Vancouver's environmental concept and objectives. Vancouver's street tree program will respond to the needs and expectations of the taxpayers and local government agencies and will improve the quality of life and increase the value of trees and the real estate of the City of Vancouver."

An amendment to the City Charter in the 1990s now permits for the first time some regulation of trees on private property. This was initiated in part as a result of the loss of mature landscape elements, especially trees, by residential development and "the erosion of Vancouver's landscape traditions." While there is a "one mature tree removal per year" loophole, this charter amendment has resulted in the retention of many trees and protective fencing for existing trees at or near construction sites. A Development Permit requirement of "diameter for diameter replacement" during lot redevelopment has increased awareness of tree heritage. Recognition of replacement values by developers and homeowners, due in part to acceptance of International Society of Arboriculture valuations made by ISA arborist appraisers, has heightened awareness of the value of trees. More information on these protective requirements can be found in *Private Property Tree By-law and Guidelines* available from the City's Planning Department.

Raising awareness and appreciation for Vancouver's urban forest was the inspiration for the Tree Keeper Program, originally initiated in Maple Ridge in the late 1980s to counter tree vandalism in newly landscaped neighbourhood schools and parks. Older Vancouver and Burnaby schools with numbers of mature trees on the grounds and on the surrounding streets adopted this program and taught awareness, understanding and respect for natural things that make the urban environment beautiful, healthy and liveable. In September, each grade 5 child was given a tree with its scientific and common name, growing on the school grounds or along nearby streets. The tree was his or hers for the year to observe, research, measure the physical size (height calculations involve some great math), and note the aesthetic and cultural values with seasonal changes. Their observations were recorded in personal Tree Keeper journals. By the end of term each had knowledge about his or her tree and understood the tree's place and value to the neighbourhood and the greater urban environment. The Tree Keepers Program was most successful at Sexsmith Community School at 59th and Ontario where more than 500 children became Tree Keepers.

In 1992 a key tree planting effort was led by the Rotary Club of Vancouver South (Marpole) and local school boards. This centred on the Hastings Street/Highway 1 tunnels and the landscaping plan of Catherine Berris and Associates. Each morning and afternoon during the fall of 1992, buses from 35 Vancouver and Burnaby schools visited six planting sites. Prior to the visits the classes had seen a specially prepared video on how to plant a tree. This enabled each student, with the help of Rotary volunteers from the eight Vancouver and Burnaby Rotary Clubs, to plant a tree, install a protector tube around it, and learn the name of their tree from a label on the tube. The 2700 seedlings they planted included five of the native conifers and 3 of the native deciduous trees. Instead of the Pacific Dogwood the students planted Vancouver's Centennial tree, a locally created floriferous hybrid of the Pacific Dogwood named Eddie's White Wonder.

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H.R.H. The Princess Elizabeth planting an oak sapling in Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver, October 20, 1951, Art Jones photograph, Tr P38.1

Vancouver's Trees: A Short History, contd.

In following years the Vancouver South Rotary Club and the Tree Keepers from six Vancouver and Burnaby schools took on the stewardship of the Rotary Heritage Forest. Each class had an annual field trip to the forest in the week before Easter to identify and count the living and dead trees, remove the protector tubes in the third year (they had failed to biodegrade as they were supposed to) and mulch them with wood chips after the fourth year. This stewardship extended over nine years from 1993 to 2001. At the last count there was a 60% survival rate. Today we have a young urban forest of 4700 native trees beside Highway 1 as you approach the bridge over Burrard Inlet.

The trees in Vancouver parks, on streets and boulevards, along with those trees on private grounds and gardens, are the most precious living heritage that we have in our city. We cannot afford to lose this element of our city's cultural heritage - this "English Passion." It is unique to our city and essential to maintain the high quality, diversity and specialness of Vancouver's urban forest.

Clive Justice is a retired landscape architect and urban forester and past board member of the Friends of the Vancouver City Archives.

Parks Board Tree Programs

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation currently has an extensive arboriculture program, including public outreach and educational activities. For information about this year's Tree Tales Writing Contest, go to: http://vancouver.ca/parks/trees/treetales.htm

Some Vancouver Tree Numbers

- The oldest street trees are the broadleaf maples planted in 1897 on Pender Street next to Victory Square
- There are 124,000 trees lining the streets of Vancouver, 49,000 of them flower
- The tree inventory is made up of nearly 600 different species and cultivars
- Arboriculture staff prune over 17,500 trees each year and about 1,200 dead or diseased trees are removed annually
- Over 3,000 street trees are planted annually, and the Street Tree Program receives over 5,000 service requests a year

For more information on Vancouver's trees, go to: http://vancouver.ca/parks/trees/aboutstreettrees.htm

Top Five Vancouver Trees

Maple (74 species & cultivars)	27,844
Flowering Cherry (27 species & cultivars)	17,871
Flowering Plum (4 species & cultivars)	13,596
Linden (10 species & cultivars)	7,716
Ash (29 species & cultivars)	7,352

View of Victory Square from Hamilton and Pender Streets, ca. 1927, W.J. Moore photograph, Park N19, showing broad leaf maples on left.

Staff News

Heather Gordon was appointed Archives Manager in February of this year.

Glenn Dingwall was recently appointed to the newly created position of Digital Archivist.

Conservator Sue Bigelow attended the Imaging Science and Technology Archiving conference in Washington, DC to learn more about the preservation of electronic records.

Conservator Rosaleen Hill is working on a survey of microfilm holdings.

Nancy Mulligan, formerly of Micrographics, has been working with the Archives' Preservation unit. She recently started a scanning project of the City's by-laws.

Archivist Evelyn Peters McLellan left the Archives in June for a position at ICBC.

Our Volunteers

Anita Bonson

Anita is our longest-serving volunteer, having worked here continuously since 1997. Anita originally volunteered for Sue Baptie, working on several major private records accessions, including the Elek Imredy fonds, the Charles Marega fonds, the Stewart McMorran (former City Prosecutor) collection and Jane Rittenhouse fonds, among many others. Anita has also worked on moving images (Spencer family films) and photographs, including the Walter E. Frost fonds, which is currently being scanned.

Anita obtained a PhD in Educational Studies in History from UBC, where her advisor was Dr. Jean Barman, now also a member of the Friends. At Dr. Barman's suggestion, Anita joined the Friends in 1999 and is now a member of the Board. When she's not busy at the Archives, Anita is a freelance researcher, writer and editor.

Photo by Chak Yung

Users of the Archives

James Johnstone, House Genealogist

A regular researcher at the Archives for several years, James uses city directories, water service records, fire insurance maps, photographs, and a wide assortment of other records to detail the histories of homes and neighbourhoods for his paying clients. Having started by researching his own home and neighbourhood, James was encouraged to "go professional" by a neighbour with whom he had shared the results of his research. Since then, James has documented the histories of over 250 buildings, and whenever possible, likes to include information about the neighbourhood to provide context. His clients range from home owners to heritage rehabilitators to realtors wanting a unique housewarming gift for clients, but James also likes to dig up the stories of little lost houses that may soon be torn down and that aren't likely ever to have their histories paid for. "They call out to me," he explains. Since James also aspires to do larger-scale neighbourhood history projects in future (providing he can find some way of funding such research!) it's hoped he'll be a regular visitor to the Archives for some time to come. To find out more about James and his research projects, visit his website: www.homehistoryresearch.com

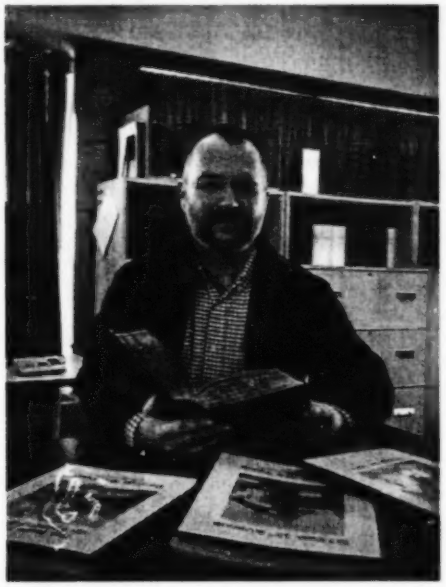

Photo by Chak Yung

Who We Are

The Friends of the Vancouver City Archives was founded in 1993 to promote public awareness of the City of Vancouver Archives and its services and projects. Through its fund raising and special events, it strives to support the use of the resources of the Archives by the general public and the professions.

The Friends welcome new members and supporters. If you want to help preserve our city's documentary heritage, please join the Friends today.

Join the Friends of the Vancouver City Archives

You are invited to become a member of the Friends of the Vancouver City Archives. Annual membership fees are $20.00 per individual or $30.00 per family. Donations (over the regular membership fee) are also welcome. The Society has charitable status so is able to issue tax receipts. Benefits to members include occasional lectures, special events, the City of Vancouver Archives Newsletter, and "behind the scenes" tours. It is expected that there will be two or three meetings a year.

A membership form has been inserted in this issue. Fill it out and send it, along with payment, to:

Friends of the Vancouver City Archives
c/o City of Vancouver Archives
1150 Chestnut Street
Vancouver, BC V6J 3J9
(604) 736-8561

You may also visit the Friends webpage on the Archives website: www.vancouver.ca/archives

Click on **Getting Involved** on the left sidebar and select **Friends of the Archives.** A membership form is also available online.

International Group Tours the Friends of the Archives Cold Storage Facility

The Photographic Materials Group of the American Institute for Conservation was invited by the Archives to hold its biennial Winter Meeting in Vancouver February 11-12, 2005. This group is the pre-eminent association for the conservation of photographs in the world. Eighty-seven delegates from nine countries attended lectures on photographic coatings and the materials, preservation and storage of historic photographs.

Some delegates arrived early in order to see the Friends of the Archives Cold Storage Facility. Only three public archives in Canada have walk-in frozen storage units for their photographs: the City of Vancouver Archives, the National Archives of Canada, and the Provincial Archives of Manitoba. The facility was opened in February 2002 and was funded by the Friends of the Vancouver City Archives.

Friends of the Vancouver City Archives Board of Directors (elected March 13, 2005)

Chair	John Keenlyside
Treasurer	Chris McGregor
Secretary	Anita Bonson
Membership	Jeanette Langmann Johnstone
At Large	Rosalind Addison
At Large	Jean Barman
At Large	Janet Bingham
At Large	Wallace Gilby Craig
At Large	Margaret Etchell
At Large	Henry Ewert
At Large	Leonard McCann
At Large	Margaret Waddington
At Large	Merrick Walsh
At Large	Frances Woodward

Membership Highlights

Henry Ewert received the Canadian Railroad Historical Association Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2003.

John Keenlyside has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and has been invited to be a member of the jury of a large international exhibition in New Zealand in November 2005.

Fred Thirkell and co-author Bob Scullion received a City of Vancouver Heritage Award for their book *Breaking News: the Postcard Images of George Alfred Barrowclough*. This is Fred and Bob's sixth book on postcards. Three of their earlier titles have also won City of Vancouver Heritage awards.

Donations

Arsenal Press donated ten copies of Daniel Francis' biography of L.D. Taylor - *L.D.: Mayor Louis Taylor and the Rise of Vancouver* - to the Friends.

In April 2004 Judge Wallace Gilby Craig donated $430 to the Friends. The Vancouver Pioneer Society also donated $10.

Lectures and Special Events in 2004-2005

Victorian Tea and Talk, November 4, 2004
A welcoming glass of sherry and a Victorian tea - complete with cucumber sandwiches - opened the Friends' fall fundraiser. Chairman John Keenlyside then showed and discussed his collection of B.C. and Vancouver notable documents and historical ephemera - theatre programs, public notices, postcards, autographs, invitations to openings of buildings and bridges, letters, et cetera. After the talk some members brought their own paper treasures forward to be admired and evaluated. This event raised $5,000 for the Friends.

Annual General Meeting, March 13, 2005
At the AGM, Daniel Francis, author of the recent biography of L.D. Taylor, outlined his experiences in researching the Life of L.D. Taylor. L.D. was Vancouver's longest-serving mayor, starting in 1910 and serving off and on until 1934 for a total of 11 years.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

History of Kitsilano Talk

November 6th, 2005
2:00 p.m.

Jan Pierce will talk on the history of Kitsilano, which is celebrating its 100th birthday this year. The "Kitsilano 100" exhibit will be at the City of Vancouver Archives from October to December.

Projects Funded by the Friends

Vancouver City Directories Project
Fourteen years (in 28 volumes) of the heavily used and rapidly deteriorating city directories were replaced by bound photocopies. The Friends contributed $2,000 to this project in November 2004.

Walter E. Frost Fonds Digitization and Description
The Friends matched a Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations grant for a total of $3,722.10 to digitize and describe a collection of photographs in the Walter E. Frost fonds (Ship Series 2). By the end of the project 2,259 negatives were scanned and 2,946 negatives and prints were described to archival standards.

J.S. Matthews Photograph Collection Description and Scanning Project
The Friends contributed $3,000 in 2004 and $2,000 in 2005 towards this project.

Miscellaneous
In June 2004 the Friends donated $2,000 to the Archives to be used at the discretion of the City Archivist and staff.

FRIENDS OF THE VANCOUVER CITY ARCHIVES

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please check appropriate membership category:

☐ Individual membership ($20.00) $_____

☐ Family membership ($30.00) $_____

☐ Additional donation $_____
A tax receipt will be issued for donations of $25.00 and over.

Total enclosed: $_____

Please make cheque payable to Friends of the Vancouver City Archives and mail with this form to:
Friends of the Vancouver City Archives
c/o 1150 Chestnut Street
Vancouver, BC V6H 3R3

Name(s):_____ Phone:_____

Address: _____

_____

E-mail: _____

☐ I am a new member

☐ I am a returning member